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Contact: Tabitha Clarke
Office: 501-834-0308

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National Weather Service Updates Flood Stage at Patterson, Arkansas

The National Weather Service forecast office in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (LMRFC) in Slidell, La., have updated the flood stage for the Cache River in Patterson, Arkansas. Effective October 1st, 2015, the new Flood Stage will be changed from 8 feet to 9 feet (191.96 ft MSL). At this gage height, the rise in water surface level begins to impact property and commerce, particularly agriculturally. The gage is owned and operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District.

The following critical threshold levels will be changed as follows:
Cache River at Patterson (PTTA4)

Bankfull/Action Stage	8 feet
Flood Stage/Minor Flood	9 feet
Moderate Flood Stage	11 feet
Major Flood Stage	12 feet

The LMRFC creates river stage forecasts for 212 locations throughout its service area. They prepare river stage forecasts for the major rivers in the south-central part of the US. Covering approximately 200,000 square miles, the river forecast center's area of responsibility includes most of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee and portions of neighboring states.

The forecasts are then forwarded to WFOs such as Little Rock for dissemination to the public. "The river stage forecasts help us meet the National Weather Service mission of protecting life and property for the citizens in Patterson and along the Cache River," said Tabitha Clarke, senior service hydrologist of the National Weather Service.

The Little Rock Weather Forecast Office provides all weather and hydrologic services for Woodruff County in Eastern Arkansas along with 44 other counties in Arkansas. The WFO collects meteorological data, prepares and disseminates weather forecasts, river and flood forecasts and warnings; and, issues severe weather watches and warnings to the public. Additional information is available at [http:// www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk) or <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/> .

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